

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

September 21, 1981

POLAND-USSR: Cautious Reaction by Solidarity

Statements by the Soviet and Polish Governments have evoked a sense of caution within Solidarity's leadership but apparently have heightened militancy among local union activists. [REDACTED]

The union's national leadership canceled a meeting on Saturday that was slated to draft a response to the Soviet warning and instead met with Archbishop Glemp. Union leaders have delayed--probably until tomorrow--a meeting to devise strategy. [REDACTED]

Solidarity's national press editors are receiving numerous, militant messages from local chapters, but are not publishing the most defiant; a union source stated that the leadership realizes it should not push the government too far. At the same time, some union leaders are "planning for the worst," presumably a reference to a possible declaration of martial law or Soviet intervention. [REDACTED]

The Church is actively trying to play a moderating role. Glemp's meeting with Solidarity leaders apparently was arranged at the Church's request and on short notice, and his message may have been similar to the statement yesterday by Pope John Paul II. In one of his most direct public statements on events in Poland, the Pope appealed for resumption of a dialogue between the two sides. Whatever moderation the Church is counseling in private, it did not delay issuing its annual criticism of the restrictions on the Polish media. [REDACTED]

The government, meanwhile, continues to keep pressure on Solidarity. Premier Jaruzelski yesterday chaired the second "emergency" session since Thursday of the Council of Ministers. Government leaders reportedly "assessed the state of readiness of the organs of state administration" and made "several necessary decisions," ambiguous phrasing that could point to a possible declaration of martial law. [REDACTED]

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The communique sought to give the impression, however, that the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss economic preparations for the winter. Local governors and mayors attended the session. [REDACTED]

Moscow Maintains Pressure

Soviet press commentary over the weekend made it clear that Moscow does not believe that Warsaw has gone far enough in criticizing Solidarity and in preparing action against the union. A summary by TASS of the communique issued on Friday by the Polish Council of Ministers dropped passages that suggested a gradualist approach may still be possible. [REDACTED]

TASS altered the communique's final passage, which noted that certain unspecified measures "may turn out to be essential," into a more definitive "will be essential." TASS also repeated criticism by the Czechoslovak party newspaper that Polish authorities have not acted decisively enough against the "fifth column" in Solidarity, which seeks to sever the Soviet-Polish alliance. [REDACTED]

Moscow believes that the Polish regime can and should ensure that Solidarity takes no further actions along the lines of its appeal to Soviet and East European workers. Until Moscow is reassured on this score, it will continue to increase its pressure on the Poles. [REDACTED]

Military Situation Unchanged

Warsaw Pact forces in and around Poland conducted little training over the weekend. [REDACTED]

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